

In the Claims:

Please delete claims 1-9 and replace with new claims 11-19 as follows:

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~~11.~~ (New) A membrane pump having a membrane which can be actuated by a crank drive, which membrane bounds, together with a concave pump body surface, a pump chamber, an inlet channel and an outlet channel which open out at an inlet opening and an outlet opening in the pump body surface, the membrane having a membrane core and an elastically deformable membrane ring and the membrane core having a convex surface adapted to the pump body surface, whereby the inlet opening is arranged in a region of the pump body surface which the membrane first approaches upon an expulsion stroke of the crank drive and the elastically deformable membrane ring closes the inlet opening before the attainment of top dead center of the crank drive, wherein an inlet valve is provided which is arranged in the region of the inlet opening of the inlet channel.

11 ~~12.~~ (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the inlet valve has a valve plate which covers over the inlet opening. *C*

12 ~~13.~~ (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein there is formed in the edge region of the inlet opening a surrounding control edge against which the elastically deformable membrane ring closes the inlet valve. *✓*

13 ~~14.~~ (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the middle point of the inlet opening lies at least approximately in the plane of rotation of the crank of the crank drive.

14 15. (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the elastically deformable membrane ring closes the inlet opening at a crank rotary position of the crank drive which is up to 90° before top dead center. ✓

15 16. (New) The membrane pump according to claim 15, wherein the elastically deformable membrane ring closes the inlet opening at a crank rotary position of the crank drive which is 20° to 90° before top dead center. ✓

Al 16 17. (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the middle axis of the inlet channel is orientated perpendicularly to the pump body surface.

17 18. (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the outlet opening of the outlet channel is arranged in a region of the pump body surface which the membrane approaches last and which is attained by the membrane at the earliest at top dead center of the crank drive.

18 19. (New) The membrane pump according to claim 11, wherein the middle point of the outlet opening of the outlet channel is arranged in an inner region of the pump body surface which lies opposite to the membrane core of the membrane.

REMARKS

As originally amended pursuant to PCT Article 34, claims 3-9 did not comply with the multiple dependent claims style specified by U.S. law. The amendments submitted above have been made to delete all multiple dependent claims.

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